

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

LS-01 RSR-01 /129 W

----- 108940

O R 041749 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9818

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12285

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FN, VS

SUBJECT: DRV NOTE OF MAY 4, 1973

1. DRV FIRST SECRETARY NGUYEN KHAI DELIVERED ON MAY 4 A NOTE FROM THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE DEPT OF STATE UNDER COVERING NOTE FROM THE DRV EMBASSY, BOTH DATED MAY 4. THE ORIGINAL IS IN VIETNAMESE, AND WILL BE POUCHED. THE DRV EMBASSY PREPARED A "NON-OFFICIAL" TRANSLATION INTO FRENCH WHICH FOLLOWS BELOW. WE ARE PREPARING AN INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION TO BE SENT SEPTEL. THE NOTE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DRV MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT OF 27 APRIL, WHICH WE SHALL NOT SEND TELEGRAPHICALLY SINCE IT WAS CARRIED BY FBIS, HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH 1727 GMT 27 APR 73.

2. THE TEXT OF DRV NOTE: "TRADUCTION NON OFFICIELLE.
"LE MINISTERE DES AFFAIRS ETRANGERES DE LA REPUBLIQUE
DEMOCRATIQUE DE VIET NAM, EN APPLICATION DE L'ARTICLE 6 DE
L'ACTE DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LE VIET NAM A
L'HONNEUR DE COMMUNIQUER AU DEPARTEMENT D'ETAT DES ETATS-UNIS
D'AMERIQUE SA DECLARATION EN DATE DU 27 AVRIL 1973 CONCERNANT
LES VIOLATIONS PARTICULIEREMENT GRAVES ET SYSTEMATIQUES DE
L'ACCORD DE PARIS SUR LE VIET NAM PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT DES
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ETATS- UNIS D' AMERIQUE ET DE L' ADMINISTRATION DE SAIGON EN VUE DE
L' INFORMER SUR LA SITUATION DE LA REALISATION DE L' ACCORD DE
PARIS PENDAIPLINE AND DRINKING. SMITH TRAVESL CURRENTLY ON
A CANADIAN PASSPORT. WE HAVE WARNED REPORTERS OF
UNRELIABLE NATURE THIS SOURCE.

3. TWO AMCITS APPROACHED CONSUL EARLIER THIS WEEK AND
ASKED FOR LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO KHMER MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE. THEY STATED THAT THEY WERE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT
WITH THE KHMER GOVERNMENT. CONSUL REFUSED TO GIVE
LETTER, AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE THAT GKR WAS
HIRING ANY FOREIGNERS.

4. SOURCE (U. S. REPORTER) WHO INFORMED US OF THE STORY,
INDICATED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IN KHMER EMBASSY IN
SAIGON HAD OFFERED CONTRACTS TO MERCENARIES, AND SENT THOSE
INTERESTED TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN PHNOM PENH. THOSE
ARRIVING HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN TOLD BY A FANK COLONEL IN
MND TO CONTACT MR. WILLSSHER. SOURCE INDICATED OTHER
NAMES, INCLUDING JAMES D. SMITH. SAME JOURNALIST QUOTED
A COLLEAGUE IN SAIGON AS HAVING OVERHEARD CONVERSATION
BETWEEN TWO JOB- SEEKING AMERICANS IN WHICH ONE OF LATTER
COMMENTED THAT A CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT WAS " BETTER THAN
BEING A MERCENARY IN CAMBODIA". SAME JOURNALIST,
CLAIMING TO BE AN UNEMPLOYED FORMER HELICOPTER DOOR- GUNNER,
WENT TO MND AND ASKED A FANK LT COL TO WHOM HE WAS
DIRECTED, IF GKR NEEDED MERCENARIES AND WAS TOLD TO CONTACT
WILLSSHER OR TWO OTHER FOREIGNERS WHOSE NAMES HE SUPPLIED.

5. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE, VINNELL CORPORATION
HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ACTIVITIES OTHER
THAN THOSE SPECIFIED IN THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE U. S. MOST
OF THESE EMPLOYEES HAVE WORKED FOR YEARS WITH THE U. S.
SUPPLY SYSTEM AND THEY HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE IN ASSISTING
THE FANK TO MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE U. S. SUPPLY
SYSTEM WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF
MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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6. DCM AND DEPCHEIF MEDTC APPRISED MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, MG THAPPANA NGINN THIS AFTERNOON OF
" MERCENARY" STORY. HE INDICATED THAT MR. SMITH AND
ONE OTHER INDIVIDUAL HAD ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO
OFFER THEIR SERVICES TO GKR. HE HAD REFUSED TO SEE
THEM, BUT ADMITTED THAY THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY
SUBORDINATES WHO CUSTOMARILY HANDLE FOREIGN JOB
APPLICANTS. WE TOLD THAPPANA THAT IF QUERIED WILL
ISSUE FLAT DENIAL THAT IT, OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES OR
VINNELL ARE IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN QTE MERCENARY

HIRING UNQTE AND REFER TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANY
QUERIES ON ITS HIRING PRACTICES. WE ADDED THAT USE
OF MERCENARIES IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD OBVIOUSLY
BE VERY WRONG POLICALLY AS WELL AS INEFFECTUAL
MILITARILY. THAPPANA SAID HE COULD SEE THAT.

7. EMBASSY PRESS GUIDANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE RECENT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE THAT THE GKR IS IN THE
PROCESS OF RECRUITING UP TO 300 " MERCENARIES", PRIMARILY
AMERICANS AND OTHER OCCIDENTALS.

QTE IT IS KNOWN THAT SINCE INDPENDENCE THE GKR HAS
EMPLOYED VARIOUS FOREIGN NATIONALS IN NON- COMBATANT
POSITIONS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS POLICY CONTINUES.
ANY QUERY CONCERNING THAT POLICY SHOULD BE DIRECTED
TO THE GKR.

QTE NEITHER THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, NOR ANY U. .
GOVERNMENT AGENCY, NOR THE VINNELL CORPORATION IS
INVOLVED IN ANY WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN THE
HIRE OF " MERCENARIES" BY THE GKR, AS ALLEGED IN THESE
PRESS REPORTS. UNQTE
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FN, PFOR, VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS12285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730536/aaaahuvvm.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971204
Subject: DRV NOTE OF MAY 4, 1973
TAGS: PFOR, n/a
To: EA
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005